

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 HEW-08 L-03 /101 R

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IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER

AID/TA/EHR:MVENT

HEW/OE/IIS/ISRS:PCREGAN

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R 250128Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 110604

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD AGENDA ITEM 5.1 (EDUCATION)

1. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION BY IMMEDIATE TEL
YOUR RECEIPT OF POSITION PAPER ON CHAPTER 1 - EDUCATION.
2. PLEASE AMEND ABOVE MENTIONED POSITION PAPER AS FOLLOWS:
 - A. P. 1 NO. 2 DELETE ENTIRELY
 - B. P. 13, SECTION 1.42 ON YOUTH SECOND SENTENCE PARA
TWO ADD "AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MAINSTREAM OF
DECISION-MAKING."
3. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE PROVIDED FOR USDEL'S USE IN
DISCUSSION OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S INTRODUCTION REGARDING
EDUCATION:

PARAS 18-19. THE CHANGE IN EMPHASIS FROM THE "CLASSIC
TYPE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" EMPLOYED BY UNESCO IN THE
PAST TO THAT DESCRIBED BY THE DG WHICH PROVIDES A CRITICAL
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DIALOGUE WITH HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF MEMBER STATES,

CALLING ATTENTION TO RELEVANT EXPERIMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES COUNTRIES, MAY BE EFFECTIVE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO HAVE THE REACTIONS OF SOME OF THE RECIPIENTS TO THIS TYPE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS TO ITS EFFECTIVENESS. HOW WELL IS IT ACTUALLY WORKING? WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?

PARA 20. WE ARE GRATIFIED TO SEE UNESCO EXTENDING "TO NEW FIELDS OF POLICY" WITH PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND THE ROLE OF NON-TEACHERS IN LIFE-LONG EDUCATION.

WE ENDORSE THE DG'S NEW EMPHASIS IN THE LITERACY PROGRAM UNDERLINING PRACTICAL ACTION AND USING THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SET UP BY UNESCO. WE AGREE WITH THE CONCEPT STATED IN HIS CITATION OF PARAGRAPH 1370 THAT "UNESCO'S ACTION AS A WHOLE WILL BE BASED ON A WIDER AND MORE DIVERSIFIED CONCEPTION OF LITERACY TRAINING, CONSIDERING IT AS A PHASE OF LIFE-LONG EDUCATION AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL ASPECTS OF INDIVIDUAL OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, WHETHER ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CIVIC OR CULTURAL." WE DO NOT BELIEVE LITERACY EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIVORCED FROM OTHER LIFE-SKILL DIRECTED PROGRAMS NOR HAVE PRIORITY OVER THEM. WE FIND THE DG'S RHETORIC THAT "THE ELIMINATION OF THIS SCOURGE BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE CENTURY IS WITHIN THE CAPACITY OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MANKIND" MISLEADING AND COMPLETELY UNSUBSTANTIATED. THE ELIMINATION OF ILLITERACY IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF GOVERNMENTS ASSIGNING LITERACY PROGRAMS A HIGHER PRIORITY. AT A TIME WHEN THE NUMBER OF ILLITERATES IN THE WORLD IS OUTDISTANCING THE BEST ACHIEVEMENTS OF LITERACY PROGRAMS (DUE TO POPULATION GROWTH), WE BELIEVE IT IS PREFERABLE TO FOCUS ON NEW APPROACHES LIKE LIFE-LONG EDUCATION, FUNCTIONAL LITERACY, RURAL EDUCATION AND THE COMBINING OF LITERACY TRAINING WITH THE PROMOTION OF OTHER ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GOALS. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE110604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FHLAWTON:LL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740132-0481
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740516/aaaaaofc.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 NOV 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD AGENDA ITEM 5.1 (EDUCATION)
TAGS: AORG, UNESCO
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005